



Department of Energy
Idaho Operations Office
850 Energy Drive
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401-1563

April 18, 2002

Mr. Wayne Pierre, Team Leader
Environmental Cleanup Office
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region X
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

Mr. Dean Nygard, Site Remediation Manager
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
1410 N. Hilton
Boise, Idaho 83706

SUBJECT: Request for Concurrence with V-Tanks Path Forward (EM-ER-02-058)

Dear Mr. Pierre and Mr. Nygard:

As you know, recent developments have forced us to rethink our approach to the V-tanks project. Because of ATG's financial difficulties, the currently selected off-site treatment remedy no longer seems viable. We've discussed several options over the last few months and have reached verbal agreement on key issues. However, since this is a major change to the project, DOE would like your formal concurrence on the recommended path forward.

DOE recommends that in-situ vitrification, in-container vitrification, thermal desorption, and chemical oxidation/stabilization be evaluated further. DOE also recommends that a short, focused design study be done concurrent with the technology evaluations to determine if a significant volume of liquid could be decanted, treated, and disposed of as an early risk and cost reduction measure. The design study would also cover other actions that would move the remedial action forward, such as soil sampling, piping isolation/removal, and soil excavation. DOE also recommends that the schedule for this work be built around a proposed plan and ROD amendment rather than an ESD.

Pierre, Nygard

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A working schedule is being developed and will be in the Technology Evaluation Scope of Work. The SOW will soon be ready for your review. DOE appreciates the work done to replan the V-tanks remedial action and looks forward to your concurrence with our recommended path forward. If you have any questions regarding this issue please call me at 526- 4392, or Mark Shaw at 526-6442.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathleen E. Hain".

Kathleen E. Hain, Manager
Environmental Restoration Program

cc: C. Cody, DEQ, 1410 N. Hilton, Boise, ID 83706
M. Wilkening, EPA Region X, Idaho Ops Office, 1435 N. Orchard St., Boise, ID 83706